

## The Professional Performer's Toolkit

### Introduction:

In 2022, it is essential for an actor to perfect their self-tape and virtual audition practice. Countless theatres and artistic organizations have turned to self-taping and zoom as opposed to auditioning actors in person. The modern-day artist relies on technology as much as their scripts and creativity. As I go into my fourth year, I would like to update my performer's toolkit to assist me in the transition from collegiate to professional auditions and to get some new essentials for working in this industry.

### List of Items:

#### 1. [Hard drive](#)

Currently, I store footage from self-tapes, reels, and my video design and projection work either on my laptop or in the free UVA box account provided to me by the University. When I leave school next year, I will no longer have access to the account, so I would like to get a hard drive to transfer my art as well as large important school projects I want to save. This is the hard drive recommended by Mona Kasra's syllabus. With this hard drive, I receive 2 TB of memory (UVA box provides 1 TB) and I can expect it to last several years.

#### 2. [Personal Website](#)

It is generally accepted professional advice that every artist (actor, director, painter, etc.) have their own website to showcase their work. A personal website is my digital portfolio, an easy link I can put on social media or in an email to show off all of my work at once. Also, it is a great way to control my online presence in a manageable way and showcase the different work I do side by side. For instance, I can have separate sections for monologues, film reels, and my theatrical projection designs. Plus owning your own domain with your name (such as sarahreganborucke.com) looks very professional and makes a good impression. This combo plan from Wix is 22% less expensive when I buy the full year (\$14 a month instead of \$18 a month).

#### 3. [Pop-Up Backdrop](#)

When self-taping, it is important to have a background that is uncluttered and not distracting. Currently, I use the white walls of my dorm room or my bathroom in my parent's house to film. Unfortunately, on camera, I have a tendency to fade into walls due to my very pale skin. This pop-up backdrop has two

#### 4. [Ring Light](#)

A ring light is ideal for actors because it acts as a tripod and a light all in one. My current ring light's light fixture is cracked in 3 places, has lost one of its rubber feet, and often the mechanism attaching my iPhone to the tripod falls forward, so it is safe to say I need a new one. This is a ring light recommended to me by a friend who attends the BFA Acting program at the University of Michigan. It is the ring light they recommended for their seniors when the pandemic first started.

#### 5. [Allstate 2 year Insurance for ring light](#)

Ring lights are not cheap and I learned my lesson with my last one. Luckily, the company I am purchasing my ring light from offers a fairly inexpensive coverage for two years.

#### Budget:

Item	Cost (Shipping/Tax Included)
Seagate Portable 2TB External Hard Drive	\$64.49
Wix Combo Plan One Year	\$168.00
Studio Essentials Pop-Up Reversible Background Kit	\$83.80
Angler Bi-Color Ring Light Kit with Light Stand	\$160.00
Allstate 2 year Drops and Spills protection (for ring light)	\$23.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$499.29</b>

#### Time Table:

Currently, I am studying abroad in London at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. I will be purchasing the hard drive, pop-up background, ring light, and protection plan as soon as I arrive back in the states (Late May). I will purchase the website when I have finished editing my reel, filmed/complied any video material I want on the site, and built the site itself. The website should be purchased and live by August at the latest depending on when I can finish the individual pieces. I do not want to publish an unfinished website, so I want to give myself as much time as I think I need to be happy with it.

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